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CIA rules prohibit journalists on payroll

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The Central Intelligence Agency continues to follow internal regulations established during the Carter administration that prohibit using U.S. reporters for intelligence activity, a CIA spokesman said yesterday.

The regulations, established during Stansfield Turner's reign as CIA chief, remain in effect and are closely followed, said CIA spokesman Sharon Foster.

The rules specifically bar the CIA from taking part in "any relationships with full-time or part-time journalists accredited by a U.S. news service, newspaper, periodical, radio or television network or station, for the purpose of conducting any intelligence activities."

The regulations were announced Dec. 2, 1977, after then-Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Daniel Inouye, Hawaii Democrat, said he would propose legislation prohibiting the use of journalists for intelligence work.

At the time, Mr. Inouye said he had "come to the conclusion that no intelligence agency should be involved with working journalists."

The CIA, however, is permitted to use journalists working for foreign publications and broadcast outlets in its overseas intelligence gathering.

Moreover, the regulations say the CIA would not deny "the opportunity" for any person "to furnish information which may be useful to his or her government." Also, the CIA is permitted to have "unpaid relationships with journalists or other members of the U.S. news media organizations who voluntarily maintain contact for the purpose of providing information on matters of foreign in-

telligence or foreign counterintelligence to the U.S. government."

The issue of journalists and spying surfaced with the recent arrest of U.S. News and World Report Moscow correspondent Nicholas Daniloff, who was charged yesterday by the Soviets with espionage.

Mr. Daniloff, and officials of the magazine and the U.S. government, have said the Soviets set him up. Even President Reagan said in a personal letter to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that he would personally vouch for Mr. Daniloff's innocence.

In 1978, Mr. Daniloff testified before the Senate Intelligence Committee that Congress should create a formal prohibition against "paid, regular or contractual relations between intelligence agencies and journalists."

He said recruiting of reporters would damage the integrity of the press, according to Friday's editions of The New York Times.

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Lee Hamilton said: "I'm not aware of any policy with regard to the use or non-use of journalists — I don't know if there is any rule."

William Colby, who worked for many years as a CIA clandestine services operative before preceding Mr. Turner as CIA director, admitted using American journalists for intelligence work.

"I've handled journalists as my agents in foreign situations, but I never told them what to write when they wrote home to their American papers," Mr. Colby said. "They were very useful in terms of getting into things that officials can't get into in foreign countries."

Mr. Colby, however, dismissed the idea that Mr. Daniloff was engaged in espionage as a "total put-on by the Soviets" designed to bargain for the release of Gennady Zakharov, an alleged Soviet spy recently arrested in New York.